

Commemoratory Message by Tapan Mishra, UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia

Symposium on “Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Building Back Better and Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

November 16, 2021

(3 Minutes)

Distinguished Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Former Secretary General of the United Nations,

Mr. Liu Zheming, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Jeon Hae-Cheol, Minister for the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Park Namchoon, Mayor of Incheon Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea

Mr. Bokyun Shim, Head, United Nations Project Office on Governance,

Distinguished guests and colleagues,

I would like to thank the organizers, UN DESA, the Minister for the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea, and Incheon Metropolitan City, for the opportunity to speak at this important symposium on **“Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Building Back Better and Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**. It is also a great privilege for me to speak along-side such well-respected speakers, including our 8th United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, who has been a great inspiration as a leader and provided very valuable guidance and support.

Today’s topic, effective governance and digital transformation is more relevant than ever before against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and with less than 9 years to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the UN Resident Coordinator in Mongolia, I would like to share **three reflections** on how Mongolia is leveraging good governance and digital transformation to build back better and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and how the UN is supporting these efforts:

- 1. E-Mongolia and Digital Nation Strategy:** In 2020, the Mongolian government set out its five-year mission to build a ‘digital nation’, harnessing data and technology to facilitate innovation, streamline public services and diversify Mongolia’s mining-reliant economy. Due to COVID-19, the need for innovative, digital solutions for the Mongolian public to access timely information increased significantly. Due to COVID-19 restriction in place, the people in Mongolia faced critical challenges to access the needed public services through traditional, off-line methods. In response, E-Mongolia enabled over 2 million citizens, out of a population of 3.3 million, to access services online. Today, E-

Mongolia provides 555 of the most in-demand government services, integrated with 55 government entities. The UN, including agencies like ITU and UNDP, supported Mongolia through this process by providing timely advisory services, technical assistance, and capacity building. This is a prime example of digital solutions used not only in response to immediate needs in view of the pandemic but enabling the country to pivot to a sustainable digitalized society and thereby accelerating the SDGs.

2. **SDG Forum and MCSD:** In Mongolia, we recognize that the SDGs would not be achieved unless all actors and stakeholders are actively involved and take required actions. This is why in October 2021, the Parliament, with support of the UN, launched the **Multistakeholder Council for Sustainable Development** during the **first High-Level SDG Forum** that was co-organized by the UN and the Government, which was attended by the Speaker of the Parliament and Prime Minister of Mongolia. The MCSD aims to disrupt the business-as-usual approach, and to enable the parliament, governments, private sector, academia, civil society and development partners, including international financial institutions, to work together more effectively. In essence, the MCSD aims to forge new partners, including in the areas of governance and digital transformation, to implement the 2030 Agenda.
3. **UNSDCF:** 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of Mongolia's membership in the UN. This year, we are also formulating the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the blueprint for the UN development system's cooperation with the Government of Mongolia from 2023 to 2027, which will help operationalize the UN Reforms. I am pleased to share that in this Cooperation Framework, people-centred governance, rule of law and human rights are highly prioritized. It is the UN's aim to support Mongolia in this effort and by 2027, we envision policymaking in Mongolia to become more coherent, participatory, evidence-based, and SDG-aligned, governance institutions are transparent and accountable, leaving no one behind. Digital transformation will be an integral part of the means of implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world today is facing unprecedented health, economic, and climate challenges, all of which are interlinked, increasingly complex and often competing. Good governance and digital transformation are key cross-cutting enablers that could help us find solutions to effectively respond to these challenges. This would require not only a whole-of-society approach, but we need to go beyond "business as usual" and to unafraid of trying new approaches and innovative solutions.

With this, I wish this Symposium great success and thank you very much!